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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations inspectors, accompanied by Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, due in Baghdad tomorrow to begin inspection of Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture, following agreement reached during the weekend.

+ Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission ends sixth session, with further report on land boundary; oil wells between Safwan and Batin remain in Kuwait, Iraq keeps access to sea at Umm Qasr.

+ Number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries down to 786 million for 1988-1990, from 941 million for 1969-1971, according to new study by Food and Agriculture Organization.

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A team of United Nations experts, accompanied by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, is expected to arrive in Baghdad tomorrow to begin inspection of Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. An agreement allowing the inspectors to search the building was reached over the weekend, after several rounds of talks on modalities for carrying out the inspections, between Mr. Ekeus and Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

At a press conference announcing the agreement, Mr. Ekeus said the inspection team was looking for documents concerning Iraq's ballistic weapons programmes and expressed hope for Iraqi cooperation in handing over all the relevant material in the building. He also told correspondents that the team would have five new members. Team composition had been a factor during his talks with the Iraqi representative, who had objected to the membership of one of its senior experts. Emphasizing that the Special Commission had the sole right to decide on team composition, Mr. Ekeus said "certain sensibilities had been taken into account" in selecting team members, without compromising the quality of the inspections.

At the conclusion of the talks on Sunday, Ambassador Al-Anbari said details had been finalized to the satisfaction of both the Special Commission

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and the Iraqi Government. He told the press that his objective had been to ensure full respect for Iraq's sovereignty and national security.

The decision to admit the inspectors into the Ministry of Agriculture building follows a 17-day standoff outside the Ministry building, during which the inspectors were repeatedly harassed by Iraqi demonstrators. Last Wednesday, after an attack on one member of the team by an unknown assailant, the team had been withdrawn from its monitoring position outside the Ministry.

Regarding the future safety of the inspectors, Mr. Ekeus said he had conveyed "very strong criticism of the way Iraq had handled security issues" in a letter to Ambassador Al-Anbari and had demanded full and adequate security for the team. He also said he would take up the matter personally during his visit to Iraq tomorrow.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission ended its sixth session on Friday, 24 July, in New York, completing a further report covering the land boundary, and agreed on arrangements for the physical representation of that boundary. In a press release issued today, the Commission stated that the demarcation was made after a detailed analysis of evidence it had assembled over the course of a year. Both Iraq and Kuwait, it said, had had every opportunity to provide it with all relevant material and evidence.

The Commission pointed out that the oil wells in the fields between Safwan and the Batin that had been exploited in the past by Iraq "already fell in Kuwait according to the boundary shown on the British map referred to in Security Council resolution 687 (1991)". Iraq's access to the sea was affirmed, the Commission noted, by the decisions to leave Umm Qasr port complex, including warehouses, deep-water anchorage, two wide berths and Umm Qasr village, and Khowr Zhobeir within Iraqi territory.

Rejecting "unequivocally...any allegations of partiality", the Commission stressed that it was not reallocating territory between Kuwait and Iraq, but was simply carrying out the technical task necessary to demarcate for the first time the precise coordinates of the international boundary between the two countries.

The Government of Iraq did not participate in the session. In a letter to the Secretary-General before the start of the meeting on 15 July, Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein charged that the Commission was conducting its work in a manner detrimental to Iraq's interests, "because a prior and biased decision has been taken to harm Iraq's interests and deny its historic rights on the part of those countries that planned the Commission's work".

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The number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries with a population of more than 1 million is estimated to have fallen to 786 million for the 1988 to 1990 period, from 941 million for 1969 to 1971, according to findings just released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The proportion of undernourished people in the population has decreased from 36 to 20 per cent.

That decrease in the percentage of undernourished people world-wide, however, was said to reflect the inclusion for the first time of China in FAO's estimates, with its huge but relatively well-nourished population. Also included for the first time were the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Viet Nam.

Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, emphasized that although many countries had made impressive progress in the fight against undernutrition, there was still "grave cause for concern", especially in Africa. "Much progress has been made, but much still remains to be accomplished", he said.

The FAO study is based on the minimum energy requirements of a person doing light, productive work, and considers household consumption over an entire year. The current figures do not reflect those who are undernourished due to temporary or seasonal falls in food consumption or problems of household food distribution or infectious diseases.

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